

## Gain Valuable Trial Experience With the Pro Bono Program for Bankruptcy Litigation

*Do you want trial experience?  
Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer in your community?  
Have we got a deal for you!*

Individual debtors file bankruptcy to protect themselves from creditors and to obtain a discharge of their debts. In many personal bankruptcies, however, a creditor will file a lawsuit against the debtor – called an “Adversary Proceeding” – to have a debt declared non-dischargeable. Adversary Proceedings involve general litigation concepts, such as fraud, and are short trials before the Bankruptcy Court separate from the debtor’s bankruptcy proceeding.

Debtors often have no choice but to represent themselves in Adversary Proceedings, increasing the burden on the debtor and the court. To address this need, the Pro Bono Program for Bankruptcy Litigation was established to train and coordinate volunteer attorneys to represent needy debtors in Adversary Proceedings. As a volunteer attorney, you will be appointed to represent a needy debtor in an Adversary Proceeding, providing an essential service to the community. Equally important, however, the Adversary Proceeding will provide you valuable trial experience, or simply a change of pace.

You don’t need any bankruptcy training or experience to participate – the scope of representation will not include the bankruptcy proceeding itself. You will also receive the benefits of working as a volunteer attorney with the local agency sponsor.

If you are interested in providing this valuable service, and gaining trial experience, mark your calendar for either of these training sessions and a free MO CLE opportunity:

### Representing Debtors in Bankruptcy Adversary Proceedings

Wednesday, February 9, 2011  
Jefferson City, MO ([click to register](#))  
12:15 pm - Check in  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Program  
U.S. Courthouse

Wednesday, February 16, 2011  
Springfield, MO ([click to register](#))  
12:15 pm - Check in  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Program  
U.S. Courthouse

#### Program Topics Include:

- Ethical Considerations in Pro Bono Engagements
- Defending the Debtor in Common Discharge and Dischargeability Actions
- Representing the Debtor in Student Loan Dischargeability Actions
- Perspectives and Comments from the Bench and the U.S. Trustees Office

MO CLE pending. Additional details to follow. You are welcome to register by selecting the appropriate location above or contact Roberta Kostrow at 816-512-1818, [roberta\\_kostrow@mow.uscourts.gov](mailto:roberta_kostrow@mow.uscourts.gov) for more information.

This program is a joint effort of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri, the Volunteer Attorney Project and Legal Aid of Western Missouri, Mid-Missouri Legal Services, and Legal Services of Southern Missouri. The program is funded in part by a grant from the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation.